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CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS – DO NOT IGNORE THE WARNING!

(McKinleyville, CA) – Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning kills more than 400 people according to the CDC and is responsible for over 50,000 emergency department visits nationwide each year. Americans 65 and older are among the highest fatalities. Arcata Fire District urges you to not ignore the warnings when carbon monoxide detectors activate.

October 11, 2017 at just after 9pm, the Arcata Fire District engine from the McKinleyville station responded to a residence for a report of a carbon monoxide detector activation. Upon arrival, fire personnel met with the family outside of the house, with fans and ventilation of the residence already in progress. Interior of the residence was checked using the gas/air monitor, discovering very high levels of carbon monoxide leading from the kitchen to a water heater closet. Utilities were secured, the home ventilated and the occupants denied medical treatment.

Captain Nate Padula commended the owner of the residence for having alarms in the house, listening to the warning alarm and getting his family outside. “The alarms did exactly what they were supposed to do by warning the residence that there was a problem,” Padula reported.

Just like a smoke detector, carbon monoxide detectors should be checked and tested regularly, have current power or fresh batteries and not be ignored in the event of an activation. There are other warning signs such as persistent, severe headaches and dizziness (usually affecting more than one person in an enclosed area), nausea, vomiting and fatigue. Quite often these symptoms disappear when the individual leaves the structure. Carbon monoxide detectors save lives!

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